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# MW 690 The Church Abroad: China

James Loftin

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## **The Church Abroad: CHINA**

MW 690 (3 hours)

Professor and Trip Leader: James Loftin, Director of Missions and Worship, ATS-F

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### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

#### **Course Purpose**

The purpose of the course is to expose participants to the work of the Holy Spirit in a cross-cultural setting with the hope that each person will develop a deeper understanding of the Chinese church and a greater passion for missions.

#### **Course Description**

On June 8 the group will fly from Orlando to Beijing, arriving on June 9. After spending two days in Beijing, we will travel to three cities in southern and southeastern China. Our last days in China will be spent in Honk Kong. We will fly from Hong Kong to Orlando on June 19. In each city we will meet with leaders from either the house church movement or the Three Self Church. We will be exposed to God's work in churches, seminaries, informal leadership training programs, literature distribution ministries, and orphanages. Travel within China will be by plane, train and taxi. Lodging will be in quality hotels. Lectures and training will be provided in the US by James Loftin, and in China by qualified leaders of church movements and seminaries.

#### **Course Highlights**

- Explore the history and culture of China by visiting historic sites
- Hear the stories of many Chinese believers.
- Take prayer walks in strategic places in the country.
- Develop a better understanding of what it means to follow Christ in an environment that is politically and traditionally hostile to the Christian faith.
- Hear the Good News from non-Western believers in Three Self Churches and in House Churches.
- Experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Chinese context.

#### **Educational Methods**

The primary method of education will be contextual involvement in China. The following methods will also be utilized: lecture, video and audio tapes, reading, and written reflection.

#### **Learning Goals: Competencies to be developed by the students**

It is expected that students successfully completing this course will be able to—

1. Compare the Three Self and House Church movements in terms of their differences and similarities, and their respective histories, memberships, strengths, and weaknesses.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the major principles of Chinese worldviews and how these impact the communication the Gospel.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between persecution and the growth of the Church.
4. Communicate a basic understanding of the principles and strategies that are helpful for westerners wanting to develop ministry partnerships in the Asian context.
5. Communicate reasons for the use of short term missions trips in the local church, and the skills and procedures that are needed to organize and lead these trips.

**READING: Required Resources and Course Texts.** Resources marked with an asterisk must be read prior to the trip.

Chew, Jim. When You Cross Cultures. Singapore: Navigator Publishing, 1990. Chapters 1, 2, 6, 7 on culture, contextualisation and stress-110 pages.

\*Fulton, Brent, ed. *ChinaSource Journal: Perspectives and Analysis for Those Who Serve China*. Vol. I, No. 4. 15 pages. Provided by Loftin.

\**GO Prepared*. Produced by Teams Commissioned for Christ International, Inc., 1999. Prepared for persons going on short term missions trips these six thirty-minute lectures deal with spiritual preparation, team spirit, cross-cultural ministry, and re-entry. In ATS-F library. Counts as 100 pages reading.

\*Lambert, Anthony. China's Christian Millions: The Costly Revival. Monarch Books/OMF, 1999. Chapters 1-14, 193 pages. 800/422-5330.

Ling, Samuel. *Megatrends: The Chinese, Asia and the World*. 30-minute video tape by ChinaSource. In ATS-F library. Counts as 20 pages reading.

Ling, Samuel. *Serving the Chinese Church in Transition*. Samuel Ling. 40-minute audio tape. In ATS-F library. Counts as 30 pages of reading.

Ling, Samuel, ed. Serving China Together. Published by ChinaSource. 79 pages, 1996. Available from James Loftin.

\*Notebook of selected articles and readings provided by James Loftin.

Russell, Gary. *The Role of the Short-term and Church-based Ministries*. Gary Russell. 40-minute audio tape. In ATS-F library. Counts as 30 pages reading.

\*Serving China: A Primer for Pastors, Churches and Ministries. Published by ChinaSource and China Harvest. 29 pages, 1998. Developed in concert with several agencies to share the opportunities and challenges of work in China. Subjects include China's current modernization efforts, its ethnic minorities and practical guidelines for living in China, as well as a general overview of the culture and history. The China Primer costs \$5 and can be purchased from James Loftin's office.

Yamamori, Tetsunao and Chan, Kim-Kwong. Witnesses to Power: Stories of God's Quiet Work in a Changing China. Paternoster Publishing, 2000. Distributed by O.M. Literature, Waynesboro, GA 706/554-5827. 108 pages. \$10 each, available from James Loftin.

**READING: Elective Resources.** After completing the Required Resources, choose from the following to complete the 1,200 page requirement.

Bays, Daniel H., editor. Christianity in China: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1996. A series of essays. 366 pages.

Covell, Ralph. Confucius the Buddha & Christ: A History of the Gospel in Chinese. Orbis, 1986. *Out of print—good luck. Let Loftin know if you find a copy.*

Lambert, Anthony. The Resurrection of the Chinese Church. Wheaton, IL: Harold Shaw, 1994. 290 pages.

Nee, Watchman. The Normal Christian Life. Any edition.

Patterson, Ross and Farrell, Elisabeth. China: The Hidden Miracle. Kent, England: Sovereign World, Ltd., 1993. 184 pages.

Wenzhong, Hu and Grove, Cornelius. Encountering the Chinese: A Guide for Americans. Yarmouth, Maine: Intercultural Press, 1999. Chapters 1, 3, 6-7, and 10.

Any biography of a Chinese Christian or a western missionary who served in China.  
Maximum of 200 pages in this area.

## Evaluation

Your grade for the course will be based on your preparation before the trip to China, your involvement in the cross-cultural experience, your completion of assigned readings and your paper. Each student will need to read 1,200 pages of material. The resources listed above with an asterisk are to be read BEFORE the trip. A letter (email is fine) stating that you have completed all pre-trip required reading is due in James Loftin's office by June 5. The balance of the pages due can be read after the trip. After the trip a paper must be written and turned in. Attached to the paper should be a list of the books and other resources that you completed. Show the number of pages for each resource and the total number of pages that you are reporting. Your paper is due in James Loftin's office by July 10 at 5:00 p.m. It must be typed—12 point font, double spaced and 5,000 words. The paper may be emailed. Use footnotes or some other method to specify references cited in the paper. The paper should:

1. Treat all topics listed in the Learning Goals section of the syllabus.
2. Share your thoughts regarding lessons the North American church could learn from the Chinese church.
3. Communicate something from your personal experience in China. How will your faith and ministry be impacted by this experience?

<i>Areas</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Maximum points</i>	<i>Points</i>
Readings	Completion and documentation of the assigned readings	25	
Trip	Demonstration of an eagerness to learn from our Chinese hosts, other team members and the leaders	25	
Paper	Timely submission of a paper that is well written, well documented, appropriate in length, and provides thoughtful commentary on the topics listed as the Learning Goals for this course.	50	
Grade	~~~~~	~~~~~	

See the grading scale in the *Grading and Evaluation* section in the Seminary catalog for grading criteria.

## Personal Impact Goals

In addition to helping participant acquire greater knowledge about the Chinese church and the related subjects mentioned in the Learning Goals section, it is hoped that God will use this course to impact students in the following ways. May God—

1. Expand our worldview and our understanding of God's global family.

2. Give us an awareness of our need as western Christians to hear the Good News from non-Western sisters and brothers.
3. Expand our awareness and appreciation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
4. Give us a passion for reaching those who have not heard the Good News (the unreached peoples of the world).
5. Clarify our understanding of God's missional call on our lives.

### **Schedule**

Two meetings will be held before the trip: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on May 22 and May 31. Participants are expected to be present in Orlando for these meetings. Students on the Wilmore campus may choose to attend one or both of these meetings via V-Tel. Call James Loftin to make these arrangements. Some readings will be due before the trip, but the other readings and the reflection paper are not due until July 10.

### **Cost**

\$2,100 covers trip costs and academic registration for MW690: China. Payment of \$750 should be made to your student account for tuition. A payment of \$1,350 (less the \$250 deposit) should be made out to Asbury and given to James Loftin by June 1.

### **Registration**

Registration is limited to fifteen people. After checking with James Loftin to confirm space availability, sign up for this class as you would for any other ATS course. Payment of \$750 should be made to your student account for tuition. A trip deposit of \$250 is due in James Loftin's office by April 25 (this is part of the total expense of \$2,100). A payment of \$1,350 (less the \$250 deposit) should be made out to Asbury and given to James Loftin by June 1. Registration is limited to fifteen people. If you do not have a passport, apply for one immediately—call James for special instructions. James will need all passports no later than May 1 in order to apply for the visas.

### **Financial Aid**

Students are encouraged to seek support from their home congregations and supervised ministry sites in addition to their own families. This is a class but it is also a missions trip. See James Loftin for suggestions and help in soliciting support. Other financial aid may be available from the Office of Missions and Worship on the Orlando campus. Contact James.

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